

REMARKS

Applicant's counsel thanks the Examiner for the careful consideration given the application. The principal applied reference is Jada (US 5852068). Jada teaches a dental impression material comprising a dimethicone-based polysiloxane polyester polymer having terminal fluorinated alkoxy substituents. A principal goal of Jada is to provide a material having increased hydrophilicity; Jada clearly wants his material to be more hydrophilic; see Abstract, last two lines; column 1 line 13; column 2 lines 36 and 46. As can be seen, the way Jada is increasing the hydrophilic character of his material is by adding terminal fluorinated alkoxy groups at each end of his polymeric chain; see column 2 lines 56 to 67 and column 4 lines 11 to 25. Fluorine is heavily electronegative; the result is that the polymeric chain will have electronegative polymeric groups at each end, which will make the molecule a polar molecule; see formula at Jada column 2, line 58 and at column 4, line 15. As a polar molecule, it will be hydrophilic, due to the presence of the terminal fluorinated alkoxy groups. This is confirmed by Jada itself at column 2, lines 44 to 48: "... a dimethicone-based polysiloxane polyester polymer having terminal fluorinated alkoxy substituents sufficient to increase the hydrophilicity of the cured silicone polymer ...". Further, it is important to note that also inside each polymeric chain of Jada there are electronegative polymeric groups that give a hydrophilic character to the whole molecule. Reference is made to the group R¹ of Jada, column 3, lines 9-12, which is a hydroxylated polyoxyalkylene substituent having the formula shown at column 3, line 13 of Jada.

Claim 1 of the present application has been amended to clarify that applicant's material is hydrophobic, that is, the terminal portions of each of applicant's molecules are vinyl and the internal R1 and R2 groups are unsubstituted monovalent hydrocarbon radicals, ie, non-polar components. The result is that applicant's molecules are quite hydrophobic, being dominated by hydrocarbon material. In summary, claim 1 now defines a hydrophobic material, in dramatic contrast to the hydrophilic material taught by Jada. Since claim 1 defines a hydrophobic material and Jada defines a hydrophilic material, it is clear that claim 1 as now presented defines over the prior art.

Claims 15 through 24 depend directly or indirectly from Claim 14 and are accordingly allowable as depending from an allowable base claim.

Since the claims as now presented clearly define over the applied references, it is believed that a Notice of Allowance is now in order, and is respectfully requested.

If any additional fees are required by this communication, please charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, Order No. BUG5-36494.

Respectfully submitted,
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